



March 6, 2022

RE: Susan G. Komen Support for SF 329

Dear Chair Klein and members of the Committee:

Susan G. Komen supports passing out of committee SF 329. This bill would eliminate out-of-pocket costs for medically necessary diagnostic breast imaging including MRI, ultrasound, diagnostic mammogram.

Widespread access to preventive screening mammography is available to millions of women as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Unfortunately, if the results of that screening mammogram require follow-up diagnostic imaging to rule out breast cancer or confirm the need for a biopsy, the patient will likely face hundreds to thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs – all before they even begin treatment. In 2023 alone, more than 5,220 individuals will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 640 will die of the disease in Minnesota.

An estimated 12 to 16 percent of people who receive annual screening mammograms get called back for diagnostic imaging. Out-of-pocket costs are also burdensome to those who have previously been diagnosed with breast cancer, as diagnostic tests are often recommended each year rather than traditional screening mammography.

A Komen-commissioned study found the costs to patients for diagnostic imaging tests range from \$234 for a diagnostic mammogram to \$1,021 for a breast MRI. If patients are unable to afford the costs associated with diagnostic imaging, many might delay or forego medically necessary follow-up tests to rule out or confirm a breast cancer diagnosis. This delay can mean that women will not seek care until the cancer has spread to other parts of the body making it much deadlier and much more costly to treat.

As committed partners in the fight against breast cancer, we know how deeply important it is for all cancer patients to have fair and equitable access to the breast imaging that may save their lives. As such, we urge your support of SF 329 to be voted out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dana Carter
Regional Manager, State Policy & Advocacy, North Central Region